

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claim 21 has been amended, claims 41 and 42 have been canceled, and claims 43-46 have been added.

In the Rejection mailed February 24, 2006, each claim was rejected based on a combination of either Sato et al. and Lanciano or JP '817 and Lanciano. Specifically, the Examiner recognized that neither Sato nor JP '817 teach or suggest bonding together two substrates with an adhesive in which fine particles having hygroscopic features are mixed, and thus, the Examiner relied upon Lanciano to conclude that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the adhesive of Sato or JP '817 with an adhesive mixed with hygroscopic particles, as taught by Lanciano.

In order to discuss the rejections issued by the Examiner, and specifically the motivation to modify Sato or JP '817 in view of Lanciano, a telephonic interview was conducted with Examiner Nguyen on July 13, 2006. The courtesies extended by Examiner Nguyen in granting and conducting this interview are greatly appreciated.

Initially during this interview, Applicants' undersigned representative explained why it is believed that one having ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious in view of the teachings of Lanciano to have modified either Sato or JP '817 by including in the adhesive thereof silica particles. Specifically, it was explained that if Sato or JP '817 were modified in view of the teachings of Lanciano then a hygroscopic curing agent would be used during curing of the adhesive of Sato or JP '817, and that there is no teaching in Lanciano of providing hygroscopic particles that do not aid a curing process. It was also expressed that there is no evidence to suggest that silica particles would function like a curing agent, and therefore, there would have been no reason to include silica particles in the adhesive of Sato or JP '817 based on the teachings of Lanciano. Examiner Nguyen was in agreement, and indicated that a claim

requiring silica particles would not be rejected based on a combination of either Sato or JP ‘817 and Lanciano.

Accordingly, by the current Amendment, the subject matter of claim 41 has been incorporated into claim 21, claims 41 and 42 have been canceled, and method claims 43-46 have been added, with independent method claim 43 corresponding to independent article claim 21.

Because none of the references relied upon by the Examiner teach or suggest the concept of mixing silica particles in an adhesive used to bond two glass plates of a touch panel to one another, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21 and 43 are not obvious over any combination of these references, whereby all currently pending claims are allowable.

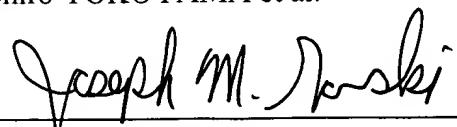
Additionally, in reply to the Official Notice taken by the Examiner, i.e. that using silica particles as hygroscopic particles is well known, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner furnish a reference to support this position. However, providing a teaching of using silica particles as hygroscopic particles would not be sufficient, when combined with Sato or JP ‘817, to render the claimed invention obvious absent some motivation to modify Sato or JP ‘817 by mixing hygroscopic silica particles in the adhesive thereof.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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